



GIBBSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Grades PS through 8

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Dear Parents,

It has been such a pleasure to have students in the building each morning since we started our in-person hybrid program. Unfortunately, we have reached the threshold in our area, and in our community, for active Covid-19 cases that warrants a **move to a period of temporary fully remote learning starting Monday, November 15, 2020 until December 14th, 2020**. We will offer in-person related services (speech, OT, PT, counseling etc.) for students who have individualized education plans and 504 plans during this temporary full remote learning time.

Please do not underestimate the willingness of our staff to have students in the building. During this time of hybrid instruction, we have had two staff members test positive and two who are in the process of being tested right now. This is NOT a decision that is being taken lightly. Due to their precautionary approaches and the timing of our recent fall break, NO students or staff members were exposed to these staff members. Otherwise, an immediate notice would have went out.

The statistical range we are entering now in our region changes our protocols provided by the NJ Department of Health. In the range that we have entered for our case rate, anyone with two or more Covid related symptoms, needs to quarantine for 14 days. This level of precaution makes it impossible to staff the school correctly and safely. The most concerning information we have is the high level of exposure, transmission, and symptomatic cases occurring with the residents of Gibbsboro and with our staff. Please be safe during these next few weeks and our hope is that this recent spike in the community is temporary. We hope these next four weeks will provide us with different data and more reassuring information so we can resume our hybrid in-person instruction in December.

Here are some specifics we are looking at while making our decision:

- 1) Right now, several families have cases of Covid-19 in their household in Gibbsboro. Thankfully, the acquisition of the virus occurred during our break and did not create a scenario of a close contact for any students or staff members here at the school. That is why there was not a notification sent home immediately to all parents and staff members.
- 2) Our region's **case rate was 5.93** (moderate) and in the yellow range when we opened for in-person hybrid instruction. **It has now risen to 22.70 which is in the orange (high) range**. At a case rate of 25, we are considered in the red range (very high) and will need to also do related services remotely if necessary.
- 3) In the last two days, we have had 9 staff members stay home for precautionary purposes as we are being very diligent in following the regulations. However, we are coming close each day to being unable to fully monitor all students correctly.

Below are links to the regional data we are given on a weekly basis. Our region is labeled as Southwest on these reports.

- Regional Weekly Covid activity the week we came back for hybrid instruction – [Link](#)
- Regional Weekly Covid activity this week – [Link](#)

During the two weeks after the Thanksgiving break, we will evaluate this same data again and all parents will be given advanced notice regarding the restart of our in person hybrid model on Monday, December 14th. Although this “second wave” was predicted, we were hoping it would not become a reality. Please stay safe in the coming weeks and continue to let us know what assistance you need to make this school year the best it can be under these circumstances. We will continue to do everything we can to help you!

Sincerely,

Jack Marcellus
Superintendent/Principal
Gibbsboro School District

Together Everyone Achieves More



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